Disney's 101 Dalmatians The Series

You'll Be Seeing Spots

Below is a tentative on-air promotion schedule for the '97/'98 "Disney's 101 Dalmatians: The Series," "Disney's DuckTales." "Disney's Quack Pack" and "Mighty Ducks: The Animated Series" seasons. Your station will be fed promos via satellite and notified of upcoming feeds via fax.

If you have any questions regarding feeds, please call Shannon Keating in BVT's Distribution Department at (818) 560-7580.

Show Title	Length	Feed Date
Disney's 101 Dalmatians The Series		
Generic Spots		
"505"	:30/:20/:15/:10	August 21st
"Numbers"	:30/:20/:15/:10	August 21st
November Generic	:30/:20/:15/:10	September 1st
Element Reel	Apx. 20 min.	September 1st
Disney's Quack Pack/Mighty Ducks Combo		
New Generic Combo Spot-Wkday Reference	:30/:20/:15/:10	August 22nd
Disney's Quack Pack		
Generic Spots		
"Hangin'"	:30/:20/:15/:10	August 22nd
"Duck"	:30/:20/:15/:10	August 22nd
Element Reel	Apx. 20 min.	August 23rd
Mighty Ducks The Animated Series		
Generic Spots		
"Mighty"	:30/:20/:15/:10	August 22nd
"Skate Fast"	:30/:20/:15/:10	August 22nd
Element Reel	Apx. 20 min.	August 23rd
Disney's DuckTales		
Generic #1	:30/:20:15/:10	August 23rd
Element Reel	Apx. 20 min.	August 27th

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Press & Publicity

Inside this section you'll find more information on all four series, the production team, and more. Feel free to use any of these press releases for your local marketing and publicity efforts.

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"101 DALMATIANS" OF FUN!

Walt Disney Television Animation's New Series Brings Everyone's Favorite Pups to TV in All-New Adventures

For more than three decades, children the world over have been charmed by the heart-warming adventures -- first told in a book, then in two classic Disney feature films -- of a crew of comely canines known, collectively, as the "101 Dalmatians." Now those beloved, be-spotted pups are tumbling onto television this Fall in a slate of all-new animated antics, **"Disney's 101 Dalmatians: The Series."**

Thirteen episodes of **"Disney's 101 Dalmatians: The Series"** are set to air exclusively as part of **ABC's Saturday Morning lineup, beginning September 6 at 8:00 AM (ET).**

Coming on the tail of Disney's doggedly popular 1996 live-action movie -- which, in turn, was inspired by the original 1961 Disney animated comedy -- **"Disney's 101 Dalmatians: The Series"** combines all the wacky, high adventure and family fun of those classic movies, but takes the results in a decidedly '90s direction: the episodes are as educational as they are entertaining.

"101 Dalmatians" was developed with the consultation of Harvard Project Zero, a consortium of educators and childhood experts who are developing a set of guidelines for quality educational television. Project Zero's "quality test" requires, among other things, that a program "send a clear and coherent pro-social message" -- a philosophy that is shared by of one of the most innovative producing teams working in television animation today.

Spearheading the concept of **"Disney's 101 Dalmatians: The Series"** are Jim Jinkins and David Campbell of Jumbo Pictures, Inc., the team that created the highly acclaimed, hit animated kids' series "Doug" and "Brand Spanking New Doug." Jinkins and Campbell have developed a reputation for mixing their inventive brand of animation with a firm grasp on the issues that touch kids' lives.

(more . . .)

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In a unique bi-coastal collaboration, New York-based Jinkins and Campbell worked closely with executive producers Roberts Gannaway and Tony Craig of Walt Disney Television Animation, based in Burbank, California. Most recently, the award-winning team of Craig and Gannaway served as executive producers of Disney's popular animated series, "Timon & Pumbaa."

Dean Valentine, President of Walt Disney Television Animation, hand-picked the two teams to give **"Disney's 101 Dalmatians: The Series"** a fresh, contemporary look and sensibility (while preserving the classic Disney magic), and to ensure that the new series would enlighten as well as entertain.

"In bringing '101 Dalmatians' to television, our goal wasn't merely to copy the classic, but to give the series a life all its own," notes Valentine. "The key to the success of any new program is its storytelling, and Jim Jinkins and David Campbell have created a scenario and characters that are not only entertaining, but also provide a terrific opportunity for kids to learn something significant."

For inspiration, Jinkins and Campbell went back to the original "The Hundred and One Dalmatians" book by Dodie Smith, as well as to the two Disney films. While preserving the story's essential qualities, they created a menagerie of new characters and a complete "environment" that will spark -- and challenge -- kids' imaginations. Executive Producer Tony Craig also updated the animation style of the original "101 Dalmatians" film, giving the character designs a more graphic look, by employing a combination of thick and thin lines and bolder colors. This more contemporary feel helps make the programs -- and their messages -- that much more accessible to today's kids.

Every episode of **"Disney's 101 Dalmatians: The Series"** explores an important kid issue -- the perils of exaggerating, the responsibility of babysitting, the true meaning of winning, dealing with a bully -- but always in a playful, fun, and subtle way. As the series sends the puppies and their friends out on the next wild adventure, they -- and hopefully, young viewers -- gain some insight into the issues that children cope with every day.

"Our messages are delivered in the time-tested way of reaching kids -- through the humor of jokes, visual gags and quirky characters," notes Jim Jinkins. "The balance between content and humor may shift from story to story -- some may be light-hearted and some more serious -- but we're never going to preach."

(more . . .)

"Disney's 101 Dalmatians: The Series" is a production of Walt Disney Television Animation and Jumbo Pictures, Inc. Collaborating as Executive Producers are Jim Jinkins and David Campbell of Jumbo Pictures, Inc., and Roberts Gannaway and Tony Craig of Walt Disney Television Animation. President, Walt Disney Television Animation: Dean Valentine.

# # #

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Note: In addition to the 13 episodes airing exclusively on ABC, **"Disney's 101 Dalmatians: The Series"** will also air six days a week, with 52 half-hour episodes **premiering weekdays in syndication, beginning September 1.**

97/7

A GUIDE TO THE WONDERFUL WORLD OF "DISNEY'S 101 DALMATIANS: THE SERIES"

A cute-as-a-button puppy with a cheerful New Age philosophy that barely conceals her hostile streak . . . a ruthless, crueler-than-cruel villainess who's trying to cut down on her smoking . . . a chicken named Spot who would give anything to be -- you guessed it -- a dog . . . a stone-faced, killer alligator named Steven, who, deep down, would just rather have everyone over for dinner (unfortunately, everyone is "the special" tonight!).

Welcome to the wacky, wonderful world of **"Disney's 101 Dalmatians: The Series,"** coming television with 13 episodes to air exclusively as part of **ABC's Saturday Morning lineup, beginning September 6 at 8:00 AM (ET).**

Infused with smart, tongue-in-cheek humor, zany visual gags, quick quips, and often ridiculously absurd (or is that absurdly ridiculous?) situations, **"Disney's 101 Dalmatians: The Series"** creates a fantastic new world of fun for fans of the original Disney movies -- complete with brand-new characters and settings -- even as it seeks to help young viewers untangle some of the confusing issues and challenges that they face in the real world.

Three Dogs and a Chicken

The series picks up right where the story of the original movie left off. Roger and Anita Dearly, now the proud owners of 99 pups and two adult Dalmatians, move their brood from their crowded city apartment to the farm where much of the original movie took place -- and which now becomes the center of the Dalmatians' world. All 101 dogs now live in the barn along with cows and horses, with the pups bunking down in the hayloft and playing in the trunk of a hollow tree that is their clubhouse.

But whereas the adult characters (both human and canine) took center stage in the films, the new series sees this new world of Dearly Farm through the eyes and ears of the puppies (the offspring of parents Pongo and Perdita) -- and three of them in particular:

Lucky (voiced by Pam Segall and Debi Mae West) , the smart, charismatic ringleader of the pack who, despite his jump-into-the-thick-of-

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adventure attitude, learns that his actions have consequences; His brother and best pal, the aptly named **Rolly** (Kath Soucie), whom viewers will remember as the puppy who would rather eat, eat, or maybe eat than foil the villains or save the day; And a new character, **Cadpig** (Kath Soucie again), the runt of the litter, who keeps up a constant chatter of relentlessly upbeat, self-inspirational philosophy. Cadpig's New Age-ness masks a passive-aggressiveness that's much more aggressive than passive. ("They're all so spiritually challenged," she says about some bad guys. "My advice is to rise above their insults...and drop something really heavy on them in their sleep.")

Joining this trio is a chicken named **Spot** (Tara Charendoff). She's a nervous, neurotic wreck of a bird, eager to prove herself as one of the dogs, but fiercely proud of her essential "chicken-ness." ("It's a chicken thing. You wouldn't understand.") Lucky, Rolly and Cadpig reluctantly take Spot under their wings as an unlikely sidekick, and together, our four unlikely heroes get themselves into and out of all kinds of fun trouble.

Eternally Cruella...and More!

More often than not, the source of the trouble is the venomous, furocious Cruella de Vil (voiced by April Winchell), who now lives next door to the Dearlys in her not-so-tastefully renovated mansion, the Villa de Vil. Although she still *loathes* the puppies, as she did in the films, Cruella no longer wants to skin them for their black-and-white coats. ("Fur is o-u-t OUT!"). Instead, she hatches 1001 underhanded schemes to acquire the Dearly's farm, and further expand her already global business empire, which includes her fashion business, the House of de Vil (for which Anita Dearly works as a designer), movie theaters (Cruellaplex), hair products (Cruella Sheen), cemeteries (Eternally Cruella), and more, more, always MORE!

"Memo to myself: come up with diabolical scheme to steal this farm!" Cruella barks into her ever-present tape recorder. Although seemingly kinder, gentler, and politically correct (she's trying to give up smoking -- and failing), Cruella's heart is still in the wrong place. She is once again aided and abetted by her two bumbling assistants-in-crime, Horace (voiced by David Lander, who played "Squiggy" on "Laverne and Shirley") and Jasper (Michael McKean, who was "Lenny" on "Laverne and Shirley"), as well as by her loyal, slimy, slithery pet ferret, Scorch (Frank Welker).

Filling out the cast is a wide range of characters, both human and animal. Of course, the Dalmatians' "human pets," Roger and Anita Dearly (Jeff

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Bennett and Kath Soucie) are back. Roger is a head-in-the-clouds video game designer, musician and all-around dreamer; while his wife Anita is the top designer at the House de Vil; together, they're united in their refusal to let Cruella buy the farm.

And the ever-eccentric Nanny (voiced by Charlotte Rae) provides care and comfort to dog and human alike, while she invents the wildest contraptions to make farm life more efficient. Her most superior achievement is the Chow Tower, the farm's former silo, which she's filled with dog chow. When meal time comes around, Nanny hops onto a stationary bike, pedals, and through a series of connections much too complicated to explain here, causes gallons of dog food to pour into a trough large enough to feed all 101 Dalmatians simultaneously!

Also on board are the pups' parents, Pongo (voiced by Kevin Schon) and Perdy (voiced by "Mork and Mindy's" Pam Dawber), offering sound advice and firm guidance when necessary. And our three pups (and Spot) need it now and then, considering the motley crew of creatures they live with in the barn.

Fans of the "101 Dalmatian" features will remember The Colonel, a weathered sheep dog and valiant old soldier who is the founder and leader of the Bark Brigade, the canine corps that saved the day in the films. He's back, along with a newly created Bark Brigader, Lt. Pug. The pup's worst nightmare, this tiny pug dog takes over the Bark Brigade classes when the Colonel's not around -- and he abuses his power with glee. A screamer with a Napoleon complex ("Don't play stupid -- I'm better at it than you are!"), and ever on the alert for the Great Cat Invasion, Lt. Pug is the kind of foolish middle manager who *thinks* he's in charge. However, his bouts with narcolepsy might make members of the Brigade think he's more foolish than not.

Lucky also "locks spots" with Tripod, the ultra-competitive athlete of the Dalmatian group. Tripod will do just about anything to win -- even though he's missing his front left leg (hence his name). He never misses the chance to show Lucky up in front of Lt. Pug. But in his competitions with Tripod, Lucky often learns crucial lessons about playing fair, teamwork, and the true meaning of winning,

The Dearly Farm is also home to Ed Pig, the unofficial "mayor" of the place, and his spoiled daughter, Dumpling; Spot's mother, Cornelia; Mooch, the leader of a pack of mischief-making dogs, and Wizzer and Dipstick, the puppies he enlists as his bone-headed sidekicks; as well as swamp creatures, such as the junk-collecting Swamp Rat and Steven the Alligator, who would like nothing better than to have the pups over for dinner.

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Home Is Where the Bark Is

As the adventures of Lucky, Rolly, Cadpig, and Spot lead them into hilarious encounters with these characters and others, they also lead them to discover some little truths about the issues that come up every day in children's lives. In the series' pilot episode, *Home is Where the Bark Is*, written by executive producer Roberts Gannaway, our three pups are kidnapped and held for ransom by Cruella, after they've run away from the farm to their former home in the city. The episode teaches kids that "home" isn't a physical place, but the love that is shared among family and friends.

In another adventure, Spot mistakenly thinks her days as a chicken are numbered and learns, with a little help from her friends, the importance of living each and every day to the fullest. Likewise, when Lucky runs for "mayor" of the farm against the corrupt Ed Pig, he sees how hollow victory can be when it's won by fighting dirty. And when Spot wants to join our trio of puppies on their adventures, everyone learns the importance of embracing those who are different from us. And so, with its energetic mix of fun, foibles and food-for-thought, **"Disney's 101 Dalmatians: The Series"** continues the Disney-Dalmatian tradition of classic canine comedy.

"Disney's 101 Dalmatians: The Series" is a production of Walt Disney Television Animation and Jumbo Pictures, Inc. Collaborating as Executive Producers are Jim Jinkins and David Campbell of Jumbo Pictures, Inc., and Roberts Gannaway and Tony Craig of Walt Disney Television Animation. President, Walt Disney Television Animation: Dean Valentine.

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"DISNEY'S 101 DALMATIANS: THE SERIES" BENEFITS FROM "JUMBO" APPROACH TO KIDS TV

Jim Jinkins and David Campbell, co-executive producers of Buena Vista Television's new animated entry **"Disney's 101 Dalmatians: The Series"** are passionate about their philosophy of creating television shows for children.

"We want every show we make to contain content that matters to kids," says Jinkins. "What are kids thinking about? What do they really want? We want to help them learn some of 'life's lessons' -- but always in a playful, hilarious way."

David Campbell adds, "We're trying to tell stories that dig into real kid issues -- acceptance, self-image, dealing with bullies -- the problems that kids identify and deal with. Even the most outlandish stories in **"Disney's 101 Dalmatians: The Series"** have a reason for being told besides just being wacky fun."

Inspired by the beloved Disney movies about those spotted pups and their human "pets," 13 episodes of **"Disney's 101 Dalmatians: The Series"** will air exclusively on **ABC Saturday Morning, beginning September 6 at 8:00 AM(ET).**

Jinkins and Campbell's philosophy has proven wildly successful in the rapidly expanding world of television animation. Their "hand-crafted" shows, known for their quirkiness and individuality, are critical and popular favorites. In 1991, the duo founded their production company, Jumbo Pictures, Inc., in New York to produce the acclaimed, multi-award-winning series "Doug" for Nickelodeon. "Doug," with its unique style of animation and its unassuming hero, was an unqualified hit. When The Walt Disney Company purchased Jumbo Pictures in 1996, the duo set to work on the further adventures of Doug, "Brand Spanking New Doug," now the #1 animated series on ABC's Saturday morning lineup.

When Jinkins and Campbell were asked to conceptualize an original animated series inspired by "101 Dalmatians," they jumped at the chance to apply their "speak-to-the-issues-of-kids" philosophy to this well-known and beloved franchise.

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"The task of adapting a great movie classic to the small screen was thrilling-- and also a bit daunting," Jinkins recalls. "But we approached it as we approach all of our productions: we set out to tell fun stories that would inspire kids as well as entertain them."

Simple Changes

The new series simply picks up where the movie left off, as Roger and Anita Dearly, the human "pets" of Dalmatians Pongo and Perdita, find themselves raising 99 Dalmatian puppies. Strapped for space in their city apartment, they move to the farm where, in the movies, the pups hid from Cruella. While both the 1961 animated film and the 1996 live-action version focused primarily on the adult characters (both human and dog), **"Dinsey's 101 Dalmatians: The Series"** tells its stories through the eyes of the puppies. In particular, via three sibling puppies -- named Lucky, Rolly, and Cadpig -- and a colorful collection of other animals, including their nervous friend, Spot the chicken.

"Lucky and Rolly were two of the puppies developed in the original films. In a series, you need a central protagonist, and Lucky seemed the perfect leader, the all-American Tom Sawyer type. Rolly, with all his 'I'm-so-hungry' jokes, seemed the perfect best friend for Lucky," says Jinkins. "In the original book, Cadpig was the runt of the litter; for the series, we gave her a big mouth to spout her cheerful New Age-style philosophy. And Spot, the Dalmatian wanna-be chicken, is a Woody Allen-ish-type worrier -- too smart for her own good, which is another great source of humor."

"We put this foursome in jeopardies and jams that kids will relate to -- for example, playing a game of 'double dare' that gets out of hand -- and then take them through the problem until they resolve it," Jinkins says. "And along the way, they -- and the kids watching -- will discover they've learned something that's really helpful."

And where does that not-so-simple villainess, Cruella de Vil, fit in? Next door to the Dearly farm and generally at the root of any trouble that our heroes find themselves in. But even Cruella has been given a new focus -- as an entrepreneur run amok.

"We LOVE Cruella!" says David Campbell. "Because this is a series, we can develop her character, so she's no longer singing a one-note song: "Kill those puppies!' She's much more needy, neurotic, and politically correct. She's trying to stop smoking, and she's not a traditional criminal, but more of a corporate criminal -- in short, a very '90s villain!"

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Jinkins and Campbell collaborated as executive producers on the series with Tony Craig and Roberts Gannaway, the Walt Disney Television Animation team known for their popular series "The Lion King's Timon and Pumbaa." The foursome revamped the graphic look of the world of "101 Dalmatians."

"We looked at the designs of the original animated characters -- they're beautiful designs -- and we decided we wanted to build on them, to give the new series a more graphic look," Tony Craig says. "We tried a thick line-thin line combination, which is much more graphic in style. To this we added bolder colors, and the result is a more dynamic, more contemporary feel."

"Our mandate was to bring "101 Dalmatians up to speed for kids today -- the voices, the jokes, the setting, everything is 'now' -- so of course that translates to the animation style as well," says Jinkins. "The look comes from what was there before, but it goes to a new place."

Harvard Project Zero

As they convey their excitement about the character updates they've brought to this classic story, both Jinkins and Campbell reiterate that it's all in the service of their philosophy. And, their thinking was exactly in tune with Harvard Project Zero, an educational project that reviewed the ABC episodes for a range of positive features, such as cognitive thinking and creative problem-solving.

"Spot and Cadpig, it turns out, are wonderful 'meta-cognitive' role models," notes David Campbell. "Spot's always worrying, and keeps rehashing everything, and Cadpig is always commenting on everybody's behavior, so the two of them actually point out cognitive processes and thoughts. Harvard Project Zero reported we had more educational content than we thought we did!"

"Disney's 101 Dalmatians: The Series" is hilarious, bright and colorful, and it's driven by great stories. Kids will find themselves falling in love with and caring about these characters," says Jinkins. "But we never lose sight of what's being learned in every episode -- what the kid issue is -- and I think that's what gives the series a lot of heart and soul."

Campbell adds another word. "*Hope* is a key element in the shows we create," notes David Campbell. "Many children's television shows are very funny, but they're also cynical or they carry an underlying philosophy that might be termed 'destructive.' '101 Dalmatians' isn't built on cynical, smart-aleck humor -- it has a more hopeful, upbeat attitude. And *our* hope is that

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when kids tune in, they're going to feel that this series was made especially for them. Because it was."

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DUCKTALES

Follow the adventures of Scrooge McDuck and his nephews, Huey, Dewey and Louie in "DuckTales," a hilarious animated series from Walt Disney Television Animation. Incredibly resourceful, Scrooge has a knack for finding and making money and he has managed to amass an unfathomable fortune. Accompanied by his three precocious nephews, Huey, Dewey and Louie, Scrooge travels across the globe in search of exciting adventures and outrageous new friends.

When Donald Duck is drafted by the Navy and sent to sea, he leaves Huey, Dewey and Louie in Scrooge's care. These three rambunctious boys would be much more difficult for Scrooge to handle if it weren't for his fine, unshakable values of compassion, loyalty, and uncommonly good sense. Scrooge has a "heart of gold" when it comes to his nephews -- and three cubic acres of cash! An entrepreneur who has conquered commerce on every front, Scrooge will stop short of nothing, except dishonesty, to preserve and increase his fortune.

When "DuckTales" first premiered in syndication on "The Disney Afternoon," the series quickly become the top-ranked syndicated series for children. Widely credited with re-igniting the children's market and sparking an explosion in quality television animation, "DuckTales" combines classic Disney characters and animation with hilarious storylines and broad, slapstick humor.

Featuring an all star voice cast with Alan Young as Scrooge McDuck, Russi Taylor as nephews, Huey, Dewey and Louie, Terry McGovern as Launchpad McQuack and Hal Smith as characters Gyro Gearloose and Flintheart Glomgold, "DuckTales" was produced by Walt Disney Television Animation, a subsidiary of The Walt Disney Company. Robert Hathcock, Jr. is producer, with Ken Koonce & David Wiemers as story editors.

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"With hockey, all things are possible."
-- Grin

INTERGALACTIC HOCKEY-PLAYING SUPERHERO DUCKS?!?!

WALT DISNEY TELEVISION ANIMATION'S "MIGHTY DUCKS" ARE BACK FOR HOCKEY-COMEDY-ACTION (AND SAVING THE PLANET FROM IMPENDING DOOM)

Hold on to your helmets, hockey-sci-fi-action-comedy-animation fans! The Mighty Ducks are back!

After a successful first season, the top-ranked **"Mighty Ducks"** returns to television **Mondays and Fridays in nationwide syndication, beginning September 1, 1997 (check local listings).** Mixing action, comedy, hockey, and ducks in ways that have never before been attempted by humans, "Mighty Ducks" follows the adventures of six young ducks who have traveled across the galaxy to save the Earth from their arch enemy, the very reptilian Dragaunus, and his equally odious henchmen . . . and to play some serious hockey.

At the Anaheim Pond (home of the real-life Mighty Ducks hockey team), the Mighty Ducks take the ice in the arena before crowds of hockey-loving fans. But below the rink, in their secret, super-cool-hi-tech headquarters, they strategize the defense of civilization from Dragaunus' plans to enslave it. And when they're not thrilling their fans with hockey magic or saving the world with the help of specially made puck-launchers, duck sabers, martial arts, and their way-out-there, sarcastic, self-deprecating sense of humor, they hang out at the mall across the street.

"'Mighty Ducks' pushes the boundaries of an animated series," says Dean Valentine, President, Walt Disney Television and Walt Disney Television Animation. "The comic book action, larger-than-life villains, and action set pieces provide kids with plenty of eye candy, while the witty dialogue makes the series fun for grownups as well."

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They're Talking Duck

"Mighty Ducks" racks up the points with a championship voice cast. **Ian Ziering** ("Beverly Hills 90210") sets the pace as the Ducks' team captain, the courageous Wildwing. Funnyman **Jim Belushi** ("Total Security," "Race the Sun," "Mr. Destiny") voices Phil, the team's brash, no-deal-is-ever-a-bad-deal business manager who's always on the lookout for the next merchandising opportunity. Film star **Tim Curry** ("Over The Top," "The Rocky Horror Picture Show") is the bad-guy Saurian Overlord Dragaunus; **Dennis Franz** ("NYPD Blue") brings his distinctive Andy Sipowicz-style to Police Officer Klegghorn, who harbors strong suspicions about the Ducks' heroic exploits; and ESPN sports anchor **Roy Firestone** calls the shots as the Anaheim Pond announcer.

Several guest voices also join the all-star line-up, including **David Hyde-Pierce**, the Emmy-winning star of "Frasier," who lends his talents to the unctuous Baron von Lichtenstamp, a hunting fanatic determined to capture the ducks for a very special duck pate. Real-life Mighty Ducks hockey star **Guy Hebert** also voices an animated character -- himself.

From Puckworld to Our World

It all starts long ago in the icy universe of Puckworld, where hockey is more than just a way of life -- it is a sacred art. Puckworld was taken over by the dark forces of the Saurian Overlords and, after centuries of destruction, the last remaining Overlord, the dastardly Dragaunus, escapes with his henchmen through a dimensional gateway to a parallel universe -- and our planet.

Totally bummed out at having their hockey interrupted, a scrappy band of rebels -- the Mighty Ducks -- follow Dragaunus, vowing to end his evil rampage once and for all. Using their amazing hockey skills as a cover, the Ducks do their best to thwart Dragaunus' efforts to steal all the electricity on earth or find the Proteus Chip that will power the all-destroying ray-cannon. Along the way, they try to help each other adjust to their new home and their "strange ducks in a strange land" situation, as well as dodge their manager Phil's latest attempt to land a fast-buck endorsement deal. ("Serves me right getting mixed up with an animal act!" Phil complains.)

The "Mighty Ducks" team consists of Wildwing (**Ziering**), the daring, idealistic young team captain who is transformed into a superhero when he wears The Mask (a goalie mask with special powers enabling him to become a superhero); Nosedive (**Steve Mackall**), Wildwing's "wisequacking" younger brother whose headstrong attitude often leads him and his teammates into trouble; Tanya (**April Winchell**), the team's whiz-bang scientific expert; Grin (**Brad Garrett**) who is a huge Zen master; and Mallory (**Jennifer Hale**) a

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dangerous martial arts expert with a fondness for shopping; and Duke L'Orange (**Jeff Bennett**), a former cat burglar who now employs his style and charm to fight crime.

The Team Behind the Team

"Mighty Ducks" producer/director Joe Barruso joined Walt Disney TV Animation from his Emmy-winning stint on Fox's "Where on Earth is Carmen Sandiego?" He collaborated with story editor David Wise, a uniquely talented writer who has been winning animation awards since he was eight, and won his first Emmy for the cartoon version of "Star Trek" while still a teenager.

"'Mighty Ducks' pairs hard-edged action with an absolutely wild sense of fun to play out stories against a backdrop of real danger," Barruso explains. "At the same time all this action is happening, the characters break the fourth wall to create layers of comedy."

Wise notes, "We went for an eclectic mix of characters -- a sort of 'Dirty Dozen'-'Seven Samurai' combination of wildly disparate personalities brought together by a single unifying goal -- both on and off the ice. All our players have more than one layer -- they're not at all simple cartoon characters. And the humor acts like a blast of nitroglycerine into a fuel mixture, to take the adventure to a higher level -- the two elements supercharge each other."

The hockey games, used to help advance the story, aren't simple either. Barruso and his crew have worked hard to make the hockey segments as accurate as possible in terms of uniforms, equipment and the rink itself. Working from computer-generated drawings, the animation team has recreated the interior world of the Anaheim Pond. Barruso also screened hours of real-life hockey footage to capture the essence of a stride, a swing or a slapshot.

"Mighty Ducks" was produced by Walt Disney Television Animation. Joe Barruso is Supervising Producer with David Wise as Story Editor and Writer. Doug Murphy and Frank Squillace are Directors. The President of Walt Disney Television Animation is Dean Valentine.

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7/97

IAN ZIERING, JIM BELUSHI, DENNIS FRANZ AND TIM CURRY
QUACK IT UP IN
WALT DISNEY TELEVISION ANIMATION'S
"MIGHTY DUCKS"

Guest Voices Include David Hyde-Pierce,
NHL Hockey Star Guy Hebert,
and ESPN Announcer Roy Firestone

Sure, you think it's easy finding just the right voices for an animated series about a team of superhero hockey-playing ducks from another galaxy. But since this isn't exactly a character-type found on most actors' resumes, the producers of **"Mighty Ducks"** turned to a stellar line-up of TV and film character actors. And, to a real-life Mighty Duck.

Leading the team is "Beverly Hills 90210" heartthrob **Ian Ziering** as the brave, courageous Wildwing. "It's not often that I get to play an intergalactic freedom-fighting duck," notes **Ian Ziering** about Wildwing, the idealistic captain of the "Mighty Ducks" hockey team, who always plays by the book, and is a consumate sportsman and role model for the team's young fans. "What's fun about doing this is I get to live vicariously through Wildwing," Ziering says. "It's exciting for me to voice a really big, 'in your face' character, because I don't get to do that on camera."

Comic actor **Jim Belushi** ("Total Security," "Taking Care of Business," "Curly Sue") runs interference as the team's non-stop-talker, always-on-the-move business manager, Phil. Only one human on earth knows of the secret mission of the world's favorite hockey team, and that's Phil. "I based the voice on a combination of my agent and my lawyer -- I stole their rap!" Belushi laughs. With a cel phone perpetually attached to his ear, Phil wheels promotion deals for the team (*"Let's do a little business, Calvin! Underwear?! Sure, ducks wear underwear!"*). "Phil's just a guy trying to make things happen," says Belushi. Phil might be the Ducks' most loyal fan, but he only reluctantly supports their mission to save the planet, because it takes too much time away from what they really should be doing -- making money for him.

(more . . .)

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Dennis Franz ("NYPD Blue") attempts to keep the peace by joining the Anaheim Police as Officer Klegghorn, a role for which he received an Emmy Award-nomimation for Outstanding Performer in an Animated Program. Well-known to "NYPD Blue" fans for his Emmy-winning role of Detective Andy Sipowicz, Franz lends his voice to a blustering, junk-food-eating disciplinarian who has suspicions about the Mighty Ducks. Klegghorn wonders why the appearance of the Ducks hockey team just happens to coincide with the appearance on the scene of a six-duck vigilante crime-fighting team. Franz explains how he performs the voice of Klegghorn: "I have three styles that I draw upon: loud, louder and loudest!"

Tim Curry ("Over The Top," "The Three Musketeers," "Rocky Horror Picture Show") stirs up trouble as the Mighty Ducks' evil nemesis, Lord Dragaunus. Dragaunus, the reptilian renegade, escaped defeat in the Puckworld galaxy by traveling through a space-time vortex to earth, where he is plotting to enslave the planet. Little did he know when he made his escape that the Mighty Ducks were right on his tail, determined to thwart his diabolical plans. Curry can also be heard as the villain Moltoc in "Quack Pack."

Guest voices throughout the season include "Frasier's" Emmy-winning **David Hyde-Pierce**, who voices the very Germanic hunting fanatic Baron von Lichtenstamp; and real-life Mighty Ducks hockey star **Guy Hebert**, as himself.

The "Mighty Ducks" voice line-up also features ESPN sports anchor **Roy Firestone** as the ever-present Anaheim Pond rink announcer; comedian **Brad Garrett** ("Everybody Loves Raymond," "The Pursuit of Happiness," "The Tonight Show") as Grin, the largest of the Mighty Ducks, whose huge physical size and Zen-like philosophy of life ("You must return to the True Way of Hockey") are a lethal combination for his foes on and off the ice; **Jennifer Hale** as Mallory; **Steve Mackall** as Nosedive; and **April Winchell** as Tanya.

"Mighty Ducks" was produced by Walt Disney Television Animation. Supervising Producer: Joe Barruso. Story Editor/Writer: David Wise. Directors: Doug Murphy and Frank Squillace.

# # #

DONALD DUCK RETURNS AS STAR OF TELEVISION'S WACKY, ANIMATED SERIES "DISNEY'S QUACK PACK"!

He's a multi-faceted, '90s kind of duck. He juggles family and career and a relationship . . . dabbles in virtual reality . . . battles UFOs . . . travels through time, discovers lost civilizations, slays dragons, and repeatedly (OK, inadvertently) saves the world from destruction! And as if that isn't daring enough . . . **HE WORKS IN TELEVISION**!!

"Quack Pack" returns to the small screen **Tuesdays through Thursdays in nationwide syndication, beginning September 2, 1997 (check local listings).** The series premiered last September and quickly rose to the top ranks among children's animated shows. Boasting a large and loyal following, "Quack Pack" consistently ranked as the #1 children's strip in syndication, among kids 2 - 11.*

Here's the scoop: Donald Duck (voiced by **Tony Anselmo**) works as a cameraman for the cable entertainment newsmagazine "What in the World?," the kind of incisive show that reports on such less-than-breaking news as the annual Garlic and Mouthwash Festival or the disappearance of Waffles the baby hippo. Don's "significant other" (remember, this is the '90s) is the ever-popular Daisy Duck (**Kath Soucie**), the news team's independent, intuitive field reporter, whose relentless quest for the big story often draws her and everyone else into relentlessly big trouble. And then, of course, there are the Nephews.

Don's in charge (well, *supposedly*) of a trio of precocious-turned-rebellious teenaged nephews named (you guessed it) Huey (voiced by **Jeanne Elias**), Dewey (**Pam Segall**), and Louie (**E. G. Daily**). These guys are not the little kids in beanies of yesteryear. They still work (and create havoc) as a team, but each has his own distinct personality: Huey's the master-of-big-ideas, Dewey is a techno-computer whiz, and Louie is the athlete-activist type. What they have in common is making life difficult for Donald with their schemes, leading him and Daisy into impossible-to-get-out-of situations, unsuspectingly unleashing the evil forces of the universe, and -- well, you get the idea. These kids are jazzed about traveling the globe on assignment with Don and Daisy and they make the most of it.

And what TV news show is complete without an anchor to mess everything up? Rounding out the cast, Kent Powers (**Roger Rose**) makes the

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entire group climb the walls as a pompous anchorman with an ego the size of Montana. He'll try to upstage Daisy (and anyone else nearby) whenever he can, but, like most jerks, he always seems to get his comeuppance, especially from the Nephews.

Cruising around in their trusty Mobile Video Van, this scrappy crew can be found in far-flung places ranging from the Brazilian rain forest to the Far East to Quaintinia, the land still stuck in medieval times and home to a female dragon who speaks fluent Valley Girl. Sometimes they stay home in their slightly weird, California-style suburb of Duckburg, where suspicious robots move in next door, or Donald's nemesis, the mean beast known as The Claw, terrorizes the neighborhood.

Updating Donald

When series producers Toby Shelton and Kevin Hopps were brought aboard to work on "Quack Pack" -- a concept that began development in the spring of 1994 -- the team liked the idea of bringing Donald back but wanted to make the cartoon relevant for today's kids. So they went back to the past to stake out the future.

Shelton recalled, "We went to the Donald Duck shorts for inspiration. We wanted to capture the spirit and flavor of those shorts and infuse that with a '90's sensibility. We transplanted his personality into the present, but haven't taken his edge away -- that's vintage Donald."

Hopps added, "We studied the classic cartoons for a feeling of rhythm and to see Donald's point-of-view. Usually what he sees is totally different from reality. But Donald represents that bit of the frustration we all experience at times -- when he lets loose, people wish they could, too."

Donald's "unintelligible quacks" could have posed a problem for the producers. In his past roles, Donald -- whose voice consistently squeals, squelches and squeaks -- relied on pantomime, but this series required dialogue to keep the story moving.

"Tony Anselmo did such a great job of communicating Donald's lines," says Shelton. "The stories required him to do more acting and bring out more of the colors in Donald's character than ever before."

Shelton and Hopps also gave Daisy a make-over. Shelton noted, "We thought her previous incarnation would seem two-dimensional today, so we gave Daisy a career and a personality that often leaves her blinded by her own ambition." Hopps added, "She can get scattered but she's not scatterbrained. She's not ditzy, but she's got a lot on her mind."

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Other recurring characters in "Quack Pack" include the very bad, very power-hungry villain Moltoc (voiced by **Tim Curry**); and Donald's suburban neighbor, the shrieking, big-hearted Slavic drive-thru owner Gwumpki (voiced by **Pat Fraley**) who loves Donald and the Nephews. Viewers also recognize favorites such as brainy professor Ludwig Von Drake (voiced by **Corey Burton**).

"Quack Pack" was produced by Walt Disney Television Animation. The series' producer and story editor is Kevin Hopps. Toby Shelton is the producer/director.

# # #

* Source: NTI, Season '96 - '97

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